

WAIVER OF STATEWIDENESS

AZRSA requested and obtained a Waiver of Statewideness in July, 2002. This waiver was necessary to honor commitments made in an Interagency Agreement between the AZRSA and the Arizona Department of Education.

The Interagency Agreement provides a greater level of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) participation in serving students in schools, which provide matching funds. This creates unequal opportunities for transition students in areas of the state where such agreements do not exist.

“Transfer Agreements” are used to receive funds from school districts and used as match for federal dollars. AZRSA commits to the schools that a predetermined amount of the resulting resources will be used to initiate VR Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) services to students who have been certified VR eligible while they are still high school students:

- One mechanism for preparing high school students for the world of work are contracts with local school districts for “Youth Transition Projects.” These contracts permit AZRSA to develop and buy specialized vocational preparation services from schools for students with disabilities, while they are still enrolled in high school. These contracts also pay for additional VR staff to work with these schools.
- Another mechanism is to commit a predetermined amount of the resulting matched monies to pay for additional AZRSA staff to serve the school and to use as case service monies to initiate IPE services for high school students.

All services provided under this waiver are provided under an approved IPE and authorized by the responsible VR Counselor.

The Interagency Agreements contain assurances that all State Plan requirements, including the Order of Selection, will apply to all services approved under the waiver.